

Message Text

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41

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SCCT-01 IO-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SCSE-00 SCA-01 SY-05 FBIE-00 /085 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2227

INFO USCINCSO

UNCLAS CARACAS 2487

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, ASEC, VE

SUBJECT: NIEHOUS KIDNAPPING: REACTION FROM THE FAR LEFT

SUMMARY. LEADERS OF VENEZUELA'S FAR-LEFT POLITICAL PARTIES HAVE PUBLICLY DISASSOCIATED THEMSELVES FROM THE NIEHOUS KIDNAPPERS. END SUMMARY.

1. IN RESPONSE TO INQUIRIES BY CARACAS DAILY EL NACIONAL ON FEBRUARY 28, LEADERS OF VENEZUELA'S FAR-LEFT PARTIES HAVE CONDEMNED THE NIEHOUS KIDNAPPING, WHILE WARNING THAT THE GOV WILL REACT WITH "REPRESSIVE" MEASURES.

2. COMMUNIST VANGUARD LEADER ANTONIO GARCIA PONCE STATED THAT THE KIDNAPPING COULD NOT BE ATTRIBUTED TO POLITICAL SECTORS, SINCE IT WOULD DISTURB THE PEACEFUL RELATIONS WHICH HAVE EXISTED BETWEEN THE PARTIES FOR THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, BUT HE WAS CONCERNED THAT THE GOV WOULD USE ITS "HABITUAL INDISCRIMINATE REPRESSION" TO SALVAGE ITS PRESTIGE. LUIS PRIETO FIGUEROA, NATIONAL LEADER OF THE PEOPLES ELECTORAL MOVEMENT PARTY (MEP), BRUSHED ASIDE PRESS QUERIES BY COMMENTING THAT KIDNAPPINGS OCCUR "ALL OVER" AND REFUSING TO COMMENT FURTHER. COMMUNIST PARTY (PCV) LEADER PEDRO ORTEGA DIAZ STATED THAT SUCH TERRORIST ACTIVITIES ONLY HINDER THE ACHIEVEMENT OF WORKERS' GOALS. FREDDY MUNOZ, A DIRECTOR

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OF THE SOCIALIST MOVEMENT (MAS) PARTY, SAID THAT THE

KIDNAPPERS ENJOYED NO POLITICAL SUPPORT IN VENEZUELA.
HE WAS CONCERNED, HOWEVER, THAT THE GOV WOULD TAKE
DISPROPORTIONATE, ABUSIVE MEASURES AGAINST LEGITIMATE
POLITICAL ELEMENTS.

3. ON MARCH 1, MAS SECRETARY GENERAL FOR LARA STATE SOL
ALVARADO "CONDEMNED AND REPUDIATED" THE NIEHOUS KIDNAPPING.
REVOLUTIONARY ACTION, A SMALL GROUP OF UNIVERSITY
STUDENT RADICALS, DENIED ANY CONNECTION WITH THE KIDNAPPING.

4. PCV ORGAN, TRIBUNA POPULAR, HAS GIVEN NO COVERAGE
WHATSOEVER TO THE NIEHOUS KIDNAPPING. MAS PUBLICATION,
PUNTO, HAS BEEN CLOSED FOR THE CARNIVAL HOLIDAYS.
SHLJUDEMAN

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